

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 56

---

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 4, 1996

Referred to the Committee on International Relations

---

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the tenth anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, and supporting the closing of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant.

Whereas April 26, 1996, marks the tenth anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas United Nations General Assembly resolution 50/134 declares April 26, 1996, as the International Day Commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident and encourages member states to commemorate this tragic event;

Whereas serious radiological, health, and socioeconomic consequences for the populations of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, as well as for the populations of other affected areas, have been identified since the disaster;

Whereas over 3,500,000 inhabitants of the affected areas, including over 1,000,000 children, were exposed to dangerously high levels of radiation;

Whereas the populations of the affected areas, especially children, have experienced significant increases in thyroid cancer, immune deficiency diseases, birth defects, and other conditions, and these trends have accelerated over the 10 years since the disaster;

Whereas the lives and health of people in the affected areas continue to be heavily burdened by the ongoing effects of the Chornobyl accident;

Whereas numerous charitable, humanitarian, and environmental organizations from the United States and the international community have committed to overcome the extensive consequences of the Chornobyl disaster;

Whereas the United States has sought to help the people of Ukraine through various forms of assistance;

Whereas humanitarian assistance and public health research into Chornobyl's consequences will be needed in the coming decades when the greatest number of latent health effects is expected to emerge;

Whereas on December 20, 1995, the Ukrainian Government, the governments of the G-7 countries, and the Commission of the European Communities signed a memorandum of understanding to support the decision of Ukraine to close the Chornobyl nuclear power plant by the year 2000 with adequate support from the G-7 countries and international financial institutions;

Whereas the United States strongly supports the closing of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant and improving nuclear safety in Ukraine; and

Whereas representatives of Ukraine, the G-7 countries, and international financial institutions will meet at least an-

nually to monitor implementation of the program to close Chornobyl: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*  
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3           (1) recognizes April 26, 1996, as the tenth an-  
4 niversary of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant dis-  
5 aster;

6           (2) urges the Government of Ukraine to con-  
7 tinue its negotiations with the G-7 countries to im-  
8 plement the December 20, 1995, memorandum of  
9 understanding which calls for all nuclear reactors at  
10 Chornobyl to be shut down in a safe and expeditious  
11 manner; and

12           (3) calls upon the President—

13           (A) to support continued and enhanced  
14 United States assistance to provide medical re-  
15 lief, humanitarian assistance, social impact  
16 planning, and hospital development for  
17 Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, and other nations  
18 most heavily afflicted by Chornobyl's aftermath;

19           (B) to encourage national and inter-  
20 national health organizations to expand the  
21 scope of research into the public health con-  
22 sequences of Chornobyl, so that the global com-  
23 munity can benefit from the findings of such re-  
24 search;

1                   (C) to support the process of closing the  
2                   Chornobyl nuclear power plant in an expedi-  
3                   tious manner as envisioned by the December  
4                   20, 1995, memorandum of understanding; and  
5                   (D) to support the broadening of Ukraine's  
6                   regional energy sources which will reduce its de-  
7                   pendence on any individual country.

Passed the Senate April 25, 1996.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,  
*Secretary.*